

FY05 Goal – Cafeteria GRC-Wide Composting

- Implement pilot program

The purpose of the project was to determine if the Glenn Research Center can implement a compost program using cafeteria waste and yard waste.
The Ohio EPA issues permits for compost facilities.

Initial basic research revealed the following:

- The Ohio EPA issues permits for compost facilities. If the size is over 15,000 square feet a permit would be needed.
- GRC would have to start out as a Class IV compost facility (no food waste, only yard waste allowed).
- For the composting process, we would need to establish a space in an out of the way area.

A simple way to make compost would be to use large concrete blocks to make a few three-sided, open-ended, screened-off bins, a minimum of 3 feet in each dimension. Material can be added and subsequently turned by a front-end loader. The area needed would be well within the 15,000 square feet requiring a permit. Note that if not managed properly, compost bins could be unsightly and emit foul odors.

Heavy equipment to operate a compost facility must be at hand including:

- A chipper/shredder for chopping up the yard waste would be needed at a cost of about \$2000.00.
- A front-end loader for turning the compost will be needed.
- Thermometers and monitoring systems to help expedite the decomposition of the yard waste.

Other equipment must be purchased. Currently, yard waste is placed in BFI dumpsters and land filled. However, the system is set up so that if any amount of foreign matter is deposited in the roll off, a token disposal cost is handed to the center (\$140.00 per box plus \$27.00 per ton)..

A possible way to defray the cost of the compost bins would be to use property acquisition through the Government. However, labor costs for operators and equipment maintenance could not be used.

In conclusion: If everything could be perfect for having the personal to work the piles and monitor the compost pile, the costs would outweigh the benefits.

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